

## Message Text

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DEPT PASS USIA FOR IWE

STATE FOR EUR/SE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEX PINT CY

SUBJECT: OPERATION OF FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN DIVIDED CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY - FULBRIGHT COMMISSION AND POST HAVE BEEN DELAYING THIS YEAR'S STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION HOPING THAT SITUATION WOULD SETTLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW BOTH GREEK CYPRIOTS AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO PARTICIPATE AS USUAL. IF WE ARE TO HAVE CANDIDATES FOR NEXT FALL, HOWEVER, WE MUST NOW BEGIN TO RECRUIT THEM. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND CONCURRENCE ON FOLLOWING PROPOSED APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF RATHER ARTFUL BALANCING ACT WE HAVE PLAYED OVER THE YEARS IN TRYING TO MAINTAIN FAIR ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH BELEAGUERED TURKISH CYPRIOT MINORITY. IN FACT FULBRIGHT COMMISSION HAS BEEN ONLY FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO INSIST FIRMLY ON FULL TURKISH CYPRIOT PARTICIPATION IN ITS GRANTEE PROGRAMS, AN INSISTENCE THAT HAS OFTEN PROVOKED IRE OF MAJORITY GREEK CYPRIOTS.

3. COMMISSION HAS DELAYED THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION FOR FALL 1975 GRADUATE STUDENTS DUE PRIMARILY TO UNSETTLED CONDITIONS AND SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR TURKISH CYPRIOT APPLICANTS TO TRAVEL TO COMMISSION OFFICES IN GREEK CYPRIOT SECTOR. WE HAD HOPED WITH EACH PASSING MONTH THAT SITUATION WOULD NORMALIZE ENOUGH TO PERMIT AT LEAST LIMITED OR PROTECTED TRAVEL ACROSS ARMED LINES

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DIVIDING TWO COMMUNITIES. IN DECEMBER CONVERSATION, PAO AND

TURKISH CYPRIOT EDUCATION OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PROBLEM: AT THAT TIME, TURKS WERE ADAMANT IN INSISTING THAT THEY RUN THEIR OWN SELECTION PROCESS (WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT AND AMERICAN PARTICIPATION) EVEN THOUGH PAO POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS CONTRARY TO LONG-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES OF BINATIONALISM AS ENGENDERED IN SPIRIT OF EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT WITH GOC ESTABLISHING COMMISSION.

4. WE ARE NOW AT POINT OF HAVING TO PROCEED WITH THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION. IN EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE LEGITIMATE SECURITY NEEDS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS, WE INTEND TO PROPOSE THAT ALL ACTIVITIES REQUIRING "TRINATIONAL" (GREEK, TURKISH, AMERICAN) PARTICIPATION (SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS, INTERVIEWING OF CANDIDATES, COUNSELING, ETC.) BE CARRIED OUT AT UN CONTROLLED PREMISES ON GREEN LINE (LEDRA PALACE HOTEL). RECENT DENKTASH/CLERIDES MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THERE AND HOTEL HAS BECOME AN ACCEPTED NEUTRAL MEETING GROUND FOR JOURNALISTS. UN HAS AGREED TO FULBRIGHT USE OF PREMISES.

5. SHOULD TURKISH CYPRIOTS, FOR REASONS RELATING TO THEIR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH AND EMPHASIZE THEIR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND SEPARATENESS, DECIDE TO INSIST ON RUNNING THEIR OWN COMPETITION, POST RECOMMENDS THAT SCHOLARSHIPS BE OFFERED ONLY TO GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT OUR POLICY HAS LONG BEEN THAT PROGRAM NOT BE AVAILABLE TO ONLY ONE COMMUNITY (MOST RECENTLY NOTED IN STATE 014835). HAVING MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET LEGITIMATE SECURITY CONCERNS, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO HAVE TO FOREGO ENTIRE PROGRAM SIMPLY BECAUSE TURKISH CYPRIOTS REFUSE TO GO ALONG WITH A REASONABLE COMPROMISE. LOSS OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD AT THIS TIME CAST ESPECIALLY UNFAVORABLE LIGHT ON US EFFORTS TO APPEAR HELPFUL.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE WITH ABOVE SCENARIO. WE HOPE TURKS WILL SEE LOGIC - INDEED VALUE TO THEIR OWN COMMUNITY - OF ACCEPTING OUR PROPOSAL. IF THEY DO NOT, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD - FOR AT LEAST THIS YEAR - ON THE ABOVE BASIS.  
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